[75 cont.]

516 The habit of picking up objects with the great toe is at least three-quarters anthropological. According to Joest, there is no particular squatting or sitting position; on the other hand, standing on one leg with the sole of the other foot supported
821 against the upper part of the thigh is very common. A fear of rain is also pronounced, although Joest probably exaggerates somewhat when he asserts that the natives generally do not go out
201 when it is raining. Finally, the peculiar expression of assent by frowning should be mentioned (1).

1. Joest in Baessler, pp. 392 f., and Tagebuch, p. 57. Concerning the fear of rain, cf. also Festetics de Tolna, Chez les Cannibales, pp. 268 f.

[113]

128 I shall now turn to a description of the culture, beginning with the externals and proceeding gradually to the questions of the social and religious life.

Ornamentation and Clothing

In his love of adornment, the Santa Cruz Islander is a true
301 Melanesian, and, as everywhere in Melanesia, it is the man who
[171] is most adorned. Ornamentation and clothing are essentially the same on the various islands of the group; for the sake of greater clarity, I shall therefore first restrict myself to the main island Ndeni and then discuss the slight deviations on the other islands.

302 The adult Ndeni man as a rule wears his hair uniformly
[386] short (cf. Figs. 1-3), but often powdered white with lime or bleached blond, sometimes even dyed yellow or red (2). Fops

2. Dalrymple, p. 78. Burney, p. 150. Labillardière, p. 256. Dillon, p. 292. Joest, Tagebuch, p. 49. According to Joest, lime serves to kill lice. Individual

[515]

[75 cont.]

302 [515]

lice are crushed between the teeth, but in an emergency all the hair is shaved off with shark teeth (Tagebuch, p. 54). The shark tooth in Edge-Partington, I, 159, No. 9, probably served for this and not for carving.

sometimes dye only half of it (3). Joest saw long hair only once,

3. Dalrymple, p. 78. Joest, ibid.

[265] on a man who was in mourning (4). Coote, however, speaks of

4. Joest in Baessler, p. 377.

long, curly plaits that were colored white and red (5). Boys up

[113 114]

5. Coote, Wanderings South and East, p. 158. (There is scarcely any new material in the later book by the same author, The Western Pacific, which in part corresponds word for word with the first.).

to the age of [76] eight to ten have their hair shaved with shark teeth, except for a comb of longer hair dyed red which is left standing along the center line (cf. the small child in Fig. 22) (1).

[114]

1. Joest in Baessler, p. 377. (Baessler's statements are based on a misunderstanding of passages in the Tagebuch, pp. 49 and 90.)

412 Combs are very rare and are made of small sticks tied together (Fig. 4, No. 1), the plate sometimes smeared with a gluey

/157 cont./

461 For the men, the days pass in busy idleness. They spend a great deal of time in the men's house, often bored to death, sunk into a half-awake state from which they can arouse themselves only with difficulty. They can be very energetic, however, and at some accustomed activity, especially if it has the nature of a sport, develop great endurance.

481 For example, they are excellent swimmers. They swim with irregular movements, somewhat like dogs, and, strange to say, they often spread out their fingers when they push off. Perhaps it is because of their irregular, effortless movements that they have such extraordinary endurance. A boy of about eight swam under the 500-ton steamer of the Anglican Mission without

515 ado (2). Since the men so often disport themselves in the sea,

2. [Cf. also O'Ferrall, section "Sailing Canoe."]

[302] they are fairly clean, and in the case of many of the younger ones it was plainly to be seen that they adorned themselves

181 with great care and tried to look elegant. They are definitely vain, more so than the women.

They are inquisitive, alert, and not stupid, and it appears that the race, thanks to a dominant Polynesian strain, may perhaps be counted among the higher Melanesians.

962 It is said that women not infrequently commit suicide by hanging as a consequence of bad treatment by the men.

Clothing and Adornment

302 I did not anywhere see the colored plaits of the men that are mentioned by Coote (3). This style has probably died

3. [Ethn., I, p. 75.]